

Message Text

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46

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-12 DPW-01 T-03 OMB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 RSR-01 /097 W

----- 089984

R 191200 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3117

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

USDEL FRANCE

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, US, LA

SUBJECT: SOUVANNA REPLIES TO ASSEMBLY RE ACCORDS

REF: VIENTIANE 1639

1. PRESS CARRIED MARCH 15 PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA'S REPLIES TO LIST OF QUESTIONS ON THE LAO CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT FROM NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, REPORTED REFTEL. FOLLOWING ARE MAJOR POINTS MADE BY SOUVANNA: (A) SOUVANNA SAID HE WOULD SUBMIT VIENTIANE 1973 AGREEMENT TO THE ASSEMBLY, BUT, SINCE NOT AN INTERNATIONAL TREATY, THE ASSEMBLY COULD NOT RATIFY IT. (B) ON DEMAND FOR PARLIAMENTARY INVESTITURE OF THE NEW COALITION GOVERNMENT, SOUVANNA SAID HE WOULD PRESENT RIGHTIST MINISTERS, NOT LPF, TO AN ASSEMBLY APPROVAL, AS IN 1962. SOUVANNA ADDED THAT IF HE IS AGAIN NAMED PRIME MINISTER, FORMING THE NEW GOVERNMENT WILL BE NOTHING MORE THAN A SIMPLE MINISTERIAL RESHUFFLING. (C) RE ASSEMBLY CONCERN OVER TERM " VIENTIANE GOVERNMENT," SOUVANNA REPLIED THAT HE CONSIDERS LPF WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT TERM " GOVERNMENT" AS BEING DE FACTO RECOGNITION OF RLG, AND THEREFORE AN " IMPORTANT VICTORY" FOR RLG SIDE. (D) SOUVANNA SAID JOINT NATIONAL POLITICAL

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COUNCIL (JNPC) WOULD BE CREATED BY THE PGNU TO DEVELOP ELECTORAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS, AND TO ORGANIZE THE NEW ELECTIONS. ACCORDING TO SOUVANNA, THE JNPC WILL HAVE NO " LEGISLATIVE OR EXECUTIVE POWER." (E) ADDRESSING THE QUESTION OF WHETHER GOVERNMENT TO BE FORMED AFTER ELECTION WILL ALSO BE COALITION GOVERNMENT, SOUVANNA GAVE PROFORMA AFFIRMATIVE REPLY CITING NEED FOR INTERNAL UNITY.

2. STANDING COMMITTEE OF ASSEMBLY MET MARCH 19. AFTERWARDS, DEPUTIES WERE UNUSUALLY GUARDED IN COMMENT, BUT IT APPEARS THEY DISCUSSED SOUVANNA'S RESPONSES AS OUTLINED ABOVE AND REACHED NO DECISIONS. COMMITTEE IS SCHEDULED TO MEET AGAIN MARCH 22.

3. REPORTEDLY, THE KING WILL COME TO VIENTIANE MARCH 20 AND ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT PHOU SANANIKONE WILL PROBABLY DISCUSS PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS WITH HIM.
GODLEY

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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